Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, The United States Supreme Court has ruled that obscenity is not protected speech under the First Amendment; and,

Whereas, There are federal and state obscenity laws against illegal hardcore pornography to protect public safety, public health, and public morality; and,

Whereas, These obscenity laws are grounded in contemporary community standards; and,

Whereas, Pornography degrades and dehumanizes both female and male participants; and,

Whereas, Pornography presents a false and distorted image of human sexuality, devoid of the love, commitment and responsibility needed for success in marriage and families; and,

Whereas, Much pornography features and promotes rape and other anti-social behavior in an era of increasing sexual violence and an epidemic of sexually transmitted diseases; and,

Whereas, So called "adult" pornography is commonly used by pedophiles to desensitize children and break down their resistance to sexual acts; and,

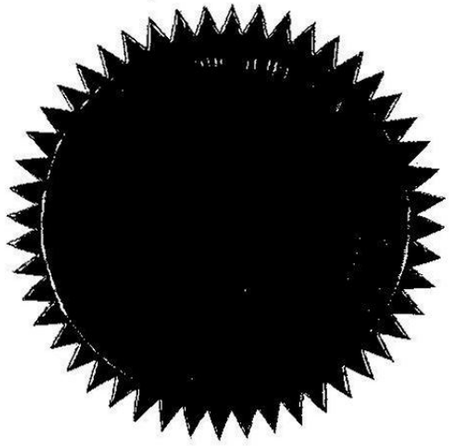
Whereas, Children are increasingly molesting other children in imitation of what they have seen in pornography; and,

Whereas, Americans throughout this great nation will be participating in Pornography Awareness Week by displaying white ribbons as symbols of community standards of decency to be upheld by enforcement of the obscenity laws:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim October 26 through November 2, 2003, as

PORNOGRAPHY AWARENESS WEEK

in South Dakota.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twentieth Day of October in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Three.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State